

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claim 7 is currently being canceled.

Claims 8-10, 16 and 18 are currently being amended.

Claims 19-21 are currently being added.

This amendment and reply adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After adding, canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 8-10, 16 and 18-21 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 8 and 9. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 8 and 9 have each been placed in independent form to include the features of their base claim 7 (slightly modified to address the objection to claim 7 as made in the Office Action), whereby claims 8 and 9, as well as claims 10, 16, 19-21 which depend either directly or indirectly from either claim 8 or claim 9, are now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action.

Objection to Claim 7:

In the Office Action, claim 7 was objected to because the symbol “n” in “plurality of times (n x t)” is not clearly defined. By way of this amendment and reply, the reference to “n” (and the reference to “t”) in claim 7 has been removed, to thereby overcome this objection.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 7 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,658,250 to Ganesan et al. in view of U.S. Patent No.

6,658,250 to Katinakis et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,592 to Baik; and claims 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ganesan et al. in view of Katinakis et al. and Baik, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,044,124 to Monahan et al. Due to the cancellation of claim 7, and due to the amendments made to claims 10, 16 and 19 so that they now depend from either "allowed" claim 8 or "allowed" claim 9, these rejections are now moot.

New Claims:

New claims 19-21 have been added, whereby these claims respectively correspond to claims 10, 16 and 19, but where they depend from claim 9 instead of claim 8.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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